

once again successfully inspired and challenged an extraordinary group of young men.

They have fought from the first whistle, having been unranked in the pre-season, to get here today, to play one more weekend. Two more games, we hope, in an incredible season.

We in Syracuse know them to be a great group of student athletes who have made us all very proud. Win or lose, the Orangemen of 1995-96 will be remembered with fondness for their sportsmanship and their heart. They have given many central New Yorkers a warm feeling after a very long winter.

Congratulations to all, and go Orange.

PASS A CLEAN BILL TOMORROW

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Madam Speaker, the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill has a simple premise: If you leave or lose your job, you should not lose your health insurance because of a preexisting health condition. As introduced in the House, the bill is only 65 pages long. Here is a copy of it.

However, the bill that will come to the House floor tomorrow is more than 220 pages long. Here is a copy of it. The bill adds 10 separate provisions to the health insurance portion of the bill.

Some of these additions are good ideas, but several are very controversial, such as tax breaks for medical savings accounts and exempting certain health plans from State insurance regulation. I am worried these additions could kill a bill that guarantees Americans the right to have portable health insurance.

Madam Speaker, Republicans in the Senate say they want a clean bill. Democrats in the House say they want a clean bill. And the President says he wants a clean bill. I hope the majority in the House will now join us in an effort to pass a bill without any special interest add-ons. Let us not load on so much baggage that we bring the whole plane down.

RAISING TAXES IS THE WRONG WAY TO GO

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, not so long ago, the President stood before us in this very Chamber and declared that "the era of big Government is over." His latest budget tells a different story, particularly with taxes. The President wants to raise taxes immediately and phase in a tax cut—that can be yanked if deficit targets are not met. In other words, the President wants a permanent tax increase and a temporary tax cut.

Madam Speaker, will liberal Democrats ever learn that smaller Govern-

ment means less taxes? It is not enough to say you want to end big Government, you have to back it up with actions. If the President really wants to end the era of big Government, he needs to stop feeding the beasts. Raising taxes is simply the wrong way to go. We need to reduce our spending and reduce the tax burden on the American people—only then will the era of big Government truly be over.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ED MUSKIE

(Mr. BALDACCI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALDACCI. Madam Speaker, I was deeply saddened to learn yesterday of the death of Senator Ed Muskie. As a new Member of Congress from Maine, I have been privileged to call on Ed Muskie for advice and wisdom.

Ed Muskie was a leader for Maine and a statesman for the Nation. He never lost sight of his roots, nor wavered from his principles.

The people of Maine and the Nation are indebted to Ed Muskie for his passionate work on a wide range of issues. His vision in developing environmental legislation, especially the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, is a legacy which will be recognized and honored by generations to come.

We can all learn much from the life that Ed Muskie led. I will never forget the advice that he gave to me shortly before I took office. He said, "Be yourself, work hard, and tell the truth." Those simple principles guided his life, and are what I strive to live up to every day.

Senator Muskie's devotion to Maine and his dedication to improving the quality of life for all Americans will long be remembered and appreciated. I know that my colleagues join me in expressing our deepest sympathy to Ed Muskie's wife, Jane, and the rest of his family.

CHINA ARMING IRAN

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, China just sold patrol boats armed with state-of-the-art cruise missiles to Iran. Let me repeat. China just sold cruise missiles to Iran.

Now, the last time I checked, Iran is still listed as a terrorist nation by America, and, No. 2, the leaders of Iran refer to Uncle Sam as "the Great Satan."

This is unbelievable. China continues to arm, aid, and abet Iran, America's No. 1 enemy, and after all of this, the Congress of the United States rewards China with most-favored-nation trade status. Beam me up, Madam Speaker.

Our policy with China not only kills American jobs, it destabilizes the world, threatens American security, and people around here are granting

them most-favored-nation trade status. I suspect today that not only are there a lot more people in Washington, DC, smoking dope, they are inhaling every single day.

WHAT IS IN STORE FOR AMERICA?

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, our Republican friends are at it again. Last year they spent the whole year trying to decimate Medicare and Medicaid and hurt our senior citizens, and, thankfully, at least for now, we were able to stop them.

This year what do they have in store for America? The largest education cuts in the history of the United States. They would deny our schoolchildren the ability to compete in this global economy.

Let us look at what the \$3.3 billion in education cuts amount to. Sixty-five million schoolchildren will be affected, basic reading and math skills cut, safe and drug-free schools cut, vocational education cut, adult education cut, title I education cut, the summer youth and employment program eliminated.

Not only do the Republicans not want to teach our children, they do not want to give them summer jobs. I guess they think they are better off hanging out on street corners than earning a few dollars to help with their families. This just shows once again the extreme, mean-spirited Republican agenda of sticking it to middle-class families.

Last year it was Medicare and Medicaid. Now it is education. What comes next?

OIL IMPORTS A THREAT TO U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, independent oil and gas producers are the mainstay of our domestic energy industry. In fact, independents produce about 64 percent of the natural gas in the country and about 39 percent of the crude oil.

But this great industry is struggling. Imports of both oil and natural gas are on the rise, and employment is declining. The United States now imports over half of our annual demand.

Our dependency on foreign oil costs about \$60 billion annually and makes up a substantial part of our trade deficit.

Just over a year ago, President Clinton signed a report issued by the Department of Commerce saying that increasing oil imports are a threat to national security. But even as the President felt the pain of the oil and gas industry, he offered no plans to end that pain.